WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 MARCH 1991

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO -- ST. PATRICK'S TOUR, 'THE' ANN'S BIBLE, GARDEN WALK TO BENEFIT WCHS

I am looking forward to our next meeting. The Society's Program Committee, Marilou Warner and Dr. Donald Smith, has done an excellent job arranging programs for us this year as you well know if you have attended.

On Sunday, March 17,--St. Patrick's Day--we will meet at St. Patrick's Church in Northfield at 2 PM. (This is the church whose spire you see as you drive north from Ann Arbor on US 23.)

The featured speaker will be Dr. Thomas Hennings, author of the book, *Looking Back: The History of Northfield Township and the Whitmore Lake Area.* He will present a program about the early Irish immigrants in this area.

Also at this meeting, Dr. Russell Bidlack will present to the Society a small Bible belonging to a special person who is very much a part of Ann Arbor's history: Ann of Ann Arbor, the woman for whom Ann Arbor is named. Ann Allen's ancestors were from Ireland, so it ties in very nicely with the St. Patrick's Day theme.

The Bible has been donated to us by Miss Sara McCue, Ann Allen's great-great granddaughter. Dr. Bidlack will tell us the story of Ann's Bible and how it has come back to Ann Arbor.

We are very pleased to have this artifact, and look forward to displaying it in our new museum. We are so grateful to Miss McCue and to Dr. Bidlack for arranging this.

You may recall hearing that while Professor Bidlack was Dean of the School of Library Science at the University of Michigan, some students came to him with a box of letters that they had found in the attic of a house they were living in at the time.

These letters turned out to be letters written by the Kellogg family, to relatives "back home" in New York State. The Kelloggs were the original builders of our Museum house. We are indeed indebted to Dr. Bidlack!

I am also looking forward to Saturday, June 8. On that date, a local garden club, the *Women's National Farm and Garden Association*, will be hosting a Garden Walk. This will be an opportunity to tour four of Ann Arbor's loveliest gardens.

Farm and Garden will donate the proceeds from this event to a civic project. They have chosen the *Museum on Main Street* as the focus of their efforts this year. I know we will be happy to support them.

They will help us turn the landscape plan that Peter Pollack has donated into a living blooming garden around our museum. More information will be coming to you about the Garden Walk as we get closer to June.

In the meantime, save the date, plan to invite a friend, and think about enjoying a spring stroll through some unique gardens, - all to benefit our garden. It will help you make it through the tag end of winter. Our thanks goes to the Ann Arbor branch of Farm and Garden for taking on this project.

Please call me if you would like more information.

Karen O'Neal
665-2242

'SAID TO BE TRUE STORY'

"Henry Ford, taking some of his own medicine by driving to his country place in a Ford, encountered another Ford stalled at one side of the road. The man seemed to be in distress, and Mr. Ford quickly jumped out and offered his services.

"When the trouble had been located and corrected, the owner of the machine tendered Mr. Ford a dollar in grateful acknowledgement of his help.

"Of course Mr. Ford refused, and when the man insisted he sought to shut him off by telling him that he already had more money than he could use. This was incredible to the other Ford owner, who tartly replied:

'Oh, come now; if you really have so much money you wouldn't be driving one of these tin lizzies.'"

Ford Smiles: All the Best Current Jokes About a Rattling Good Car, by Carleton B. Case, Shrewesbury Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

FAITH AND BEGORRA! TO ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH WCHS WILL GO MARCH 17

What could be more appropriate for WCHS's March meeting than to visit St. Patrick's Catholic Church for a tour and a talk about Washtenaw's early Irish settlers?

The meeting on "Remembering the Irish—Early Settlers of the Area" will include a tour of the church and one-hundred-year-old rectory at 5671 Whitmore Lake Road.

Thomas P. Hennings, Eastern Michigan University professor of English and author of *Looking Back, The History of Northfield Township and the Whitmore Lake Area*, will speak.

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. in the church hall opposite the church across Northfield Church Road. If weather permits, there may be a tour of the church cemetery.

ANYONE FOR A SUNDAY KIT HOUSE TOUR?

The following is a list of kit homes in the Ann Arbor area compiled by Grace Shackman, February WCHS speaker, arranged alphabetically by street name. There are believed to be many more yet undiscovered.

They are listed by address, company that made them and model name.

725 Arlington, Sears, Honor
1304 Belmar, Sears, Ashland
401 Berkley, Sears, Barrington
507 Berkley, Sears, Adams
112 Collingwood, Sears, Hathaway
2855 Dexter, Sears, Rodessa
3101 Dexter, Sears, Wilmore
312 Doty, Ward, Berwyn
318 Doty, Ward
348 Eighth, Ward, Kenwood
520 Felch, Aladdin, Tucson
802 South First, Sears, Rodessa
905 South Fifth, Sears, Clyde
2030 Hill, Sterling, Vernon
117 West Hoover, Sears, Hathaway
1334 Hutchins, Sears, Hathaway
1706 Jackson, Sears, Columbine
3 Keppler Court, Ward, Norwood

(continued on page 6)

MAIL ORDER KIT HOMES,
MORE AND MORE EXAMPLES IDENTIFIED LOCALLY

"People call them Sears Houses. That's kind of a misnomer because they really were made by a lot of companies but it's a term people use as they use 'Kleenex' or 'Frigidaire'," Grace Shackman told the February WCHS audience.

Mrs. Shackman, a writer for the *Ann Arbor Observer* and former editor of the *Old West Side News* (as well as a county commissioner), has made a study of kit houses in Ann Arbor.

"Kit houses were houses that were made like any other house that you would make from scratch with lumber, nails and plaster except you sent for them and got everything all together, usually in two loads by railroad."

"You didn't go to the lumber yard and get lumber, the hardware store and get nails and so on.

"They came in a lot of styles--they would generally have about 100 entries per catalog.

"We have found six companies in this area that offered catalog homes. There were more than that in the country--some on the east coast, some on the west coast. But the two major ones were Sears and Wards.

"They already were catalog companies and already sold a lot of the things that went into the kits--nails, roofing materials, plaster. They really just had to add the pre-cut lumber to put the kits together.

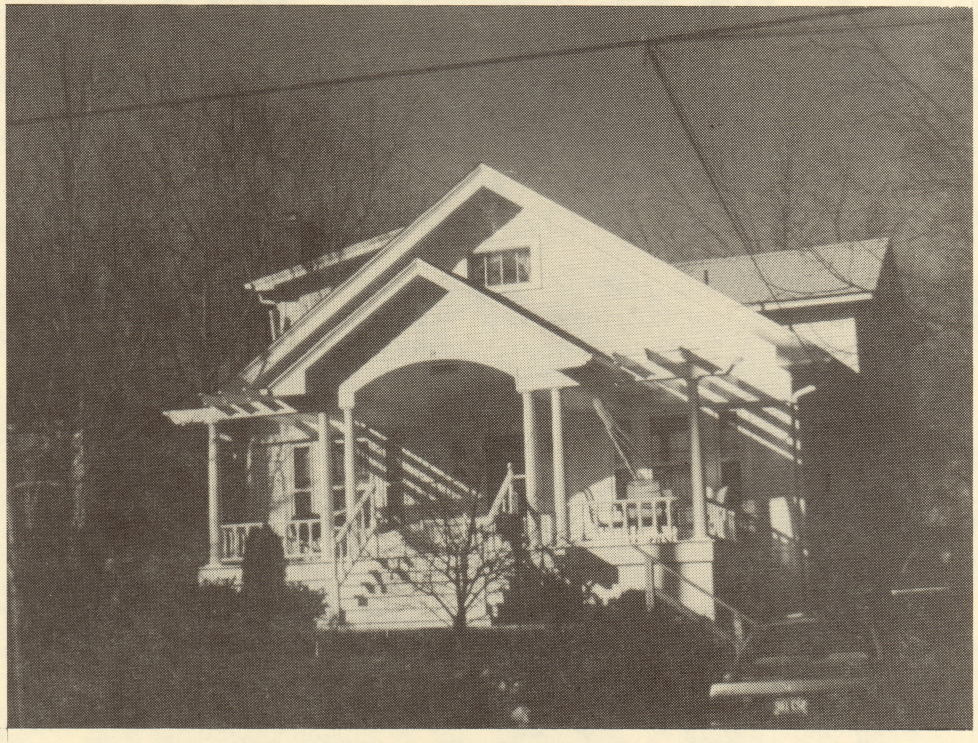
"Three other companies were in the Bay City area--Aladdin, Lewis and Sterling. That makes sense because Bay City was a lumber city. The sixth company was Gordon-Van Tine of Davenport, Iowa.

"A person who did a lot of preliminary work in figuring out which company's they were is Robert Schweitzer who teaches at Eastern Michigan University in the historic preservation program.

He has co-authored the first book on the subject with Michael Davis, director of the Detroit Historical Society, she noted. The title is *America's Favorite Homes, Mail Order Catalogues As A Guide to Popular Early 20th Century Houses.*

"This whole study is fairly new. It's something people have known about but just lately there seems to be a real interest in it. I see a lot of newspaper and magazine articles.

"I have a calendar on display that a real estate company put out that has a kit house picture, also a model of a Sears house my daughter put together--I think it's for a model railroad set-up.



SEARS COLUMBINE, 1706 JACKSON

Sears offered this style in the twenties. The kit price ranged from $1,971 to $2,135. It has six rooms and bath on main floor, two rooms optional upstairs. This one is the home of Gretchen Preston and her husband, Greg Meisner.

Sears started making kits in 1908, Aladdin about 1906. Most ended about World War II when you couldn't make houses anyway. Aladdin went on until 1983.

"Their heyday was the 1920's and '30's. All examples I know of in this area are from then.

"Why did people do them? They were cheaper by about thirty percent--that was the main reason. There were economies of scale plus financing was easier.

ALADDIN TUCSON

This compact five-room model, 520 Felch, is the home of Jan Harding. It was offered for $941 in the 'teens.

"This was before you could get long term mortgages like today. Sears and Wards would let you pay off in easier down payments and installments.

"Also the materials were supposed to be better quality. Some companies offered refunds if you found any knot holes in the kit.

"How did I get into studying it? Actually it started at a WCHS meeting in about 1985 at the American Legion. After the program a man told me he grew up in a Sears house.

"Oh, that's real interesting," I said. "Susan (Wineberg), standing next to me made sure I wrote down his name. It was on this little sheet of paper for several years before I called him up.

"I thought this was just a one shot deal--one Sears house found in Ann Arbor. I wrote at the end of the article if anyone knows of any more call me.

"Several called me, then several more. I began to get the idea there were more and more. Somewhere in there Rob Schweitzer called me because people told him I was writing these articles for the *Old West Side News.*"

"So we joined forces. And that was good because he had all those catalogs. I had no way of knowing Van Tine, Lewis, Sterling or Wards. He had all those plus more Sears than I do."

She had a book put out by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, *Houses by Mail--A Guide to Houses from Sears, Roebuck & Co.* that shows a lot but not all Sears entries. She also had a reprint of a 1919 Aladdin catalog.

"We work together. I talk to people and find out about the houses. He looks through all the catalogs to identify which model it was and say for sure it was a kit home.

"When I started out I just thought it was an interesting little sidelight. Now when I begin to see the numbers I think it is a very important part of the architectural history of the 1920s and 1930s.

"The homes people built were influenced by what they could pick out in a catalog. Of course, it worked both ways. The catalogs offered what they thought people wanted. If they offered a model and no one would buy it, it wouldn't be in the next years catalog.

"I'm pretty sure too that people building houses from scratch copied catalog houses. Some houses are almost like a catalog house but not."

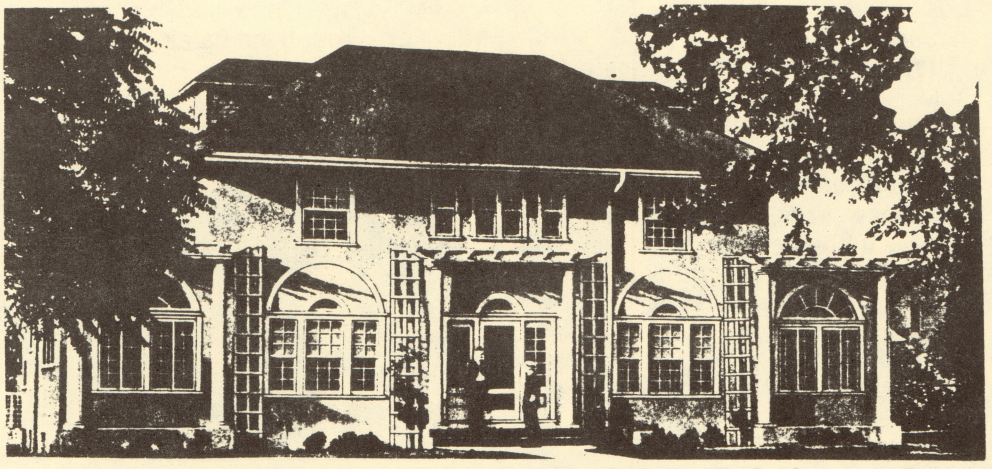
She passed out a list of 35 addresses with kit homes or suspected kit homes, the company that sold them and the model name. She had a list at home of at least double that amount that she at least suspects are kit houses.

"Every time I go out I see several more that look to me like kit houses. I think we are still at the beginning of our work. Rob guesses there are 250-300 in Ann Arbor and about half a million in the country, conservatively."

Even though they came in the more common styles there were a variety of styles offered. Among the first slides shown were a southwestern style she had never seen around here and a "Frank Lloyd Wrightian" style, both from Sears. Also a couple of cottages, some garages from Aladdin and barns.

"How did you order them? You ordered from catalogs. You could send away for the catalog. They were advertised in lots of national magazines. You looked through them and simply chose whatever appealed to you.

"How did I find out these were kit houses? One is by people who still remember building them, another from kids who grew up in them.



ALADDIN VILLA, TOP OF THE LINE IN 1918-19

Kit homes came in all sizes from the tiny three-room (no bath) Erie for $555 to the Villa with butler's pantry and maid's quarters for $5,800. This catalog illustration was said to be in Bay City not far from company headquarters.

"Then you go to neighbors and friends who knew about Sears houses--those you have to do a little more checking.

"Another way is by physical evidence--people that find the markings on the boards or from just recognizing the same model on the street as you see in the catalogue--Rob does a lot of that.

"When I first started, I thought it was going to be harder than it was because, if the houses are built right none of the marking should show. The marks should be on the side not visible. ALso kit styles were similar to other styles and other companies.

The granddaughter of the man who built the Sears Rodessa model at 802 First Street at the corner of Koch called Rob Schweitzer and Rob and Grace interviewed him.

Her grandfather, Frank Braatz, had built that house when he was very young. He was a trained carpenter and could have built a house from scratch but he ordered a Sears house because he had no money and no one would give him any credit.

He was able to get a Sears house with very little money and built it himself. It came to the Ann Arbor Railroad depot on Ashley Street in two loads, the first load contained what he needed to start, the second load what he needed to finish.

He got the lot, built a basement and had things hauled to his lot by horse and wagon. He laid the materials out on the lawn at first until he got the house up enough to be able to bring things inside so they were more protected.

He lived there a couple of years. Grace showed slides of the house and the catalog picture.

"Another way you find out about kit houses is that once you know one house, often the people who live in it will tell you of other houses like it. When you live in a house you are more likely to notice a house that looks just like yours."

Two people called Grace about the Sears Rodessa at 2855 Dexter. They both knew the elderly woman who lived there but she now lives in a home in Alma. Grace plans to write to her for more information. She hopes to find out more about several of the houses as she finds time.

When she worked for the *Chelsea Standard* and *Dexter Leader* she interviewed a barn builder, Roy Koch. She happened to ask him if he knew of any kit homes. He told her he had helped build one at 12345 Jackson Road near Stiver's Restaurant.

She found that Olive Burkhardt Wiseman who still lives in the Chelsea area grew up in the house. Her father had an ice cream store in Chelsea. Her parents saw a house they liked in Ann Arbor and built one like it.

Schweitzer can't find the catalog entry in Sears catalogs so it may be from another company, Grace said.

"I asked Roy Koch if it was easier or harder to put up than a regular house. He said he preferred not to work with a kit because he thought it was more trouble than it was worth to have to put it together board one, board two, board three. He'd rather just boom, boom, boom."

Grace called Reuben Rose, a retired electrician, for another story she was writing for *The Observer* and, in

passing, asked if he knew of any kit houses.

"I'm sitting in one right now," he said. It is a Sears Somers at 1472 South Boulevard.

He built it as a young man because he could get it much more reasonably. He chose a one-story because other houses in the neighborhood were one story. He's glad now he doesn't have to go up and down stairs.

He made several changes--an extra window in the basement and the back is made so there could be a screened porch.

"It's good to talk to the original person because if somebody else lived there we might say it looks like a Sears house but the basement window is different and the back is different. His uncle and his dad helped him build it.

"In most cases I find it wasn't amateurs who put these houses together. They usually needed someone who knew how to build, usually a carpenter or at least someone who was very handy.

"And they didn't go up overnight. There was some saving in the work because in those days there weren't power tools and the boards all came cut but you still had to do every step."

Mr. Rose's parents lived around the corner on Packard in a house since torn down. He had the materials hauled by horse and wagon and stored them in his parents' barn until he needed them.

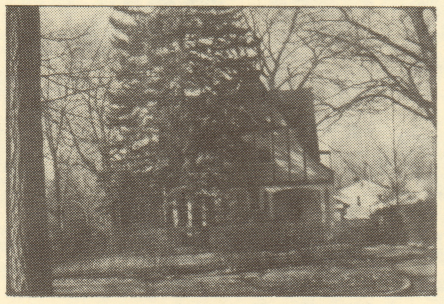
The house wasn't done as soon as he hoped so he stayed in the garage a while and his wife stayed with her parents. He got tired of that before it was done and they moved into the unfinished house and slept in the kitchen at first.

"A woman wrote me about a Wilmore at 3101 Dexter Avenue she had lived in since 1945. She thought it was a Sears house and she gave me the name of a neighbor who had lived there longer. The neighbor gave me the name of the original owner who lives in Spring Arbor."

Grace called her and found the woman's husband and father-in-law had built it. Her husband worked at the University of Michigan. They were lucky to be in by Thanksgiving.

"A lot of these people were doing full time jobs and worked on the houses nights and weekends."

The original owner still lives in a Ward's Kenwood at 348 Eighth Street. Mrs. Esther Scwartz said when she was engaged she and her husband looked through the catalog and chose this house because, even though a two story, it had a bedroom and bath downstairs.



WARD DEVONSHIRE

Now the home of Don and Anne Marie Coleman at 1601 Pontiac Trail.

"Her husband and a carpenter who lived across the street built it together.

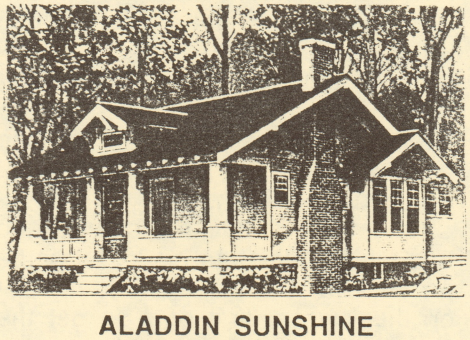
"Everybody to a person says in what good shape the houses are. Any house 70 years old needs some repairs but there is nothing structurally wrong with them."

The very first Sears house Grace heard about at a WCHS meeting was a Sears Rembrandt at 622 South Seventh Street. Chuck Good's father, a professor of mechanical engineering, build it in 1925.

Good called his older sister in Washington State who told how it was built. It sounded like a building party--at various times neighbors, family, friends, and colleagues all helped put it up. Chuck gave Grace a picture of the house under construction.

When she first wrote about the Good house, Grace thought it was a Sears Lexington. She later found out it was a Rembrandt.

After she had been researching kit houses for a while, Graces's neighbor, Clarence Steffey, who lives at 502 Soule, "kitty-corner" across from her, mentioned that his father, who had been a farmer, built the house, a Sears Westly.



ALADDIN SUNSHINE

The bungalow style was popular in the 'teens and twenties. The Aladdin 1918-19 catalog lists this at $2,009.

Steffey's father hired a carpenter from Stockbridge to help him and started in the spring. The family lived in a rented house on Eighth Street. The house was not done when the rental time ran out so they lived in the new garage a while.

The Steffeys told Grace of a house in Saline like theirs and gave her an article about it in the *Saline Preservation News*.

The catalog picture of the Steffey house shows an open porch but the older Steffey just made a porch on one-half of the front and enlarged the dining room.

Again Grace was doing an *Observer* article about the Trueby Ice Cream Parlor and the owner's son had grown up in a Sears Hathaway at 814 Third Street. His parents chose this particular model because it fit nicely on their long, narrow lot.

David Brough told Grace he was born in his grandparents kit house at 312 Doty, a Ward's Berwyn. His dad was in the Air Force at the time and his mother was staying with his grandparents, the Earl Broughs.

Glen Smith, the present owner, showed them through the house. "It looked very nice, very good shape," Grace said. It was built about 1930 and Schweitzer just got a 1929 Wards catalog he hopes to find it in.

Tom Freeman, son of Carol Freeman, Dixboro historian, told Grace he lived in a Sears Winthrop at 5091 Plymouth Road in Dixboro.

He took a picture of the house and drew a floor plan and sent it to the Sears archives. They wrote back and said it looked like a Winthrop to them.

Sears archives, by the way, are trying to reconstruct their history just the way we are. They lost all their records. So they are just collecting it from people writing in and telling them about their houses. Wards also don't have records.

When Bob Vernon moved into a Sears Hathaway at 814 Third Street he heard from neighbors and former owners that it was a Sears house. He found a model just like his in the book and he found numbers on rafters in the basement and attic so he has real good proof, she said.

There are quite a few of this model around town. One of Rob's students wrote a paper on them. Grace listed three others at 112 Collingwood, 117 West Hoover and 1334 Hutchins.

Another way she found out about a kit house was when a friend called her

attention to an advertisement of a Sears house for sale at 401 Berkley--a Barrington.

A man wrote her telling her of some houses he had heard were Sears houses including another at 507 Berkley, an Adams. She hasn't yet contacted the present owners but is pretty sure it is a kit house.

The first house Grace learned about from physical evidence was the Sears Columbine at 1706 Jackson, owned by Gretchen Preston and her husband, Greg Meisner. Gretchen runs Gretchen's Houses day care centers.

They had just moved in and were taking out or putting in carpet and took out a baseboard. They saw the Sears shipping label on the back.

The original owner, a widow lived on the first floor. It looked as if the second floor had been finished later.

"The curved detail on the porch is very common on Sear's houses. I guess they were showing off all the things they could do with their saws that would be hard without power tools.

"Shirley and Dudley Barlow were taking insulation out of their attic and they found a Sears stamp on the boards. Their Sears Dover is at 1316 South Seventh, near Pioneer High School."

Kate Hayward was working on her house at 318 Doty when she found a Ward's label. Hers is just two doors down from the Brough-Smith house at 312 Doty. There's a bungalow between them and another bungalow, all reputed to be Wards houses.

Polly Varhol found out her house at 3055 Lakewood was a Sears Puritan house from a magazine article about the same model in Lakewood, Illinois, occupied by the town's mayor.

Grace showed the second kit house Frank Braatz built at 812 Miner after moving out of the first house she mentioned on First Street at Koch.

Rob found another house from a testimonial in a Wards catalog. "We love our Wardway home," Mrs. Albert Jedele wrote. The city directory said the Jedeles lived at 3 Keppler Court. He drove out there and here was a Ward's Norwood.

It turned out that the woman who lived there, Linda Feldt, had just recently discovered the same thing when she changed a doorway and found a Wards label on the back of a molding.

Box or square houses are very common too and they are hard to distinguish between the different companies as are bungalows.

Rob found another through a testimonial from a Mr. and Mrs. Parker. They lived at 1601 Pontiac Trail in a Ward's Devonshire, now owned by Anne Marie and Don Coleman, ministers at Guild House. The Parkers had run the Broadway Pharmacy. The Devonshire is on the cover of Schweitzer's book.

After their *Observer* article about kit houses, a letter writer told them about the Sears Honor at 725 Arlington at Geddes. Rob was excited to see this top of the line model.

A landscaper figured it out. The daughter of the person who built it lives in Ypsi also knew about it and she wrote that all the neighbors used to come by and watch it being built. The original sleeping porch has been closed in. Neill and Carol Hollenshead live there now.

Another person wrote to say they had a Sears Uriel on Sharon off Platt Road. It matched the catalog illustration.

SEARS DOVER

1316 South Seventh Street near Pioneer High School. It is the home of Shirley and Dudley Barlow.

Mary Culver, who is active in historic preservation, discovered that her hairdresser, Jan Harding, lives in an Aladdin Tucson at 520 Felch.

Mary Hathaway lived in an Aladdin house at 8 Marshall Court as a girl with her parents, the second owners. It was a duplex and when the family got bigger they changed it to a single family. They later moved out.

Years later, Mary and her husband, John, bought it for rental property. They have it divided into three living units.

Just by knowing the catalog Schweitzer eyeballed a Lewis Company Lancaster model at 1113 South State near the Fieldhouse and a Lewis Marlborough at 1407 Lincoln. He found another Marlborough when someone saw the picture in his book and told him there was one just like it in their neighborhood.

"Sure enough, it was like it except it was the mirror image. You could order variations such as that or extra doors and windows."

Schweitzer's daughter spotted a kit house one day when they were walking on Wells across from Burns Park. "Look, Daddy, that's just like on the cover of your (1927 Gordon-Van Tine) catalog." Comparison showed it was.

The owner of 308 Pauline Boulevard wrote that she has the bill of sale for her Gordon-Van Tine house.

The Sterling Company Vernon at 2030 Hill is one of the show places of Ann Arbor, she noted. Tim White, former publisher of the *Ann Arbor News*, lived there until he recently moved away.

The News ran a wire service story in 1982 about Sears homes with a picture of the same Vernon model, a funeral home in Aurora, New York, and said it was a Sears Magnolia, still in good shape.

Rob investigated further and found the Hill Street house must be a Sterling Vernon and so must the New York one.

"Two styles that I see most all over town are this colonial bungalow. This is next to Gretchen Preston's, this on Spring, on Seventh, on Stadium and there are others. The other common style is the Sears Dover."

At Christmas, Grace visited her parents in the Chevy Chase section of Washington, D.C. A local newsletter had an article on Sears houses and a listing so she went around and took pictures. She found some the same as here--a Puritan, a Uriel, a Westly and a Crescent with added dormers--and some different.

Grace's favorite Washington, D.C. house, a Maywood, resembled the house portion of the Ann Arbor Unitarian Church.

Some people were proud of their kit houses, some were embarrassed. Now real estate people use it as a plus.

HOW TO JOIN WCHS

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to: WCHS Membership, 122 South Main, Suite 250, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1903. Information: 662-9092.

Annual dues are $10, individual; $18 a couple. Senior individual, (60) $8, senior couple, $14. Sustaining dues $50, commercial, $25 and student, $5. Only one of a couple need be 60.

INTERIOR SECRETARY ISSUES 'TEN COMMANDMENTS' FOR REHABILITATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES

As the museum on Main Street comes closer to reality, perhaps members should be aware of the Secretary of the Interior's new standards of rehabilitation for historic buildings such as ours.

Museum committee chairman Nancy McKinney brought these "ten commandments" to our attention.

1. A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.

2. The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterizes a property shall be avoided.

3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.

4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historical property shall be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture and other visual qualities and, when possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical or pictorial evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.

8. Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

KIT HOUSE TOUR *(continued)*

3055 Lakewood, Sears, Puritan
1407 Lincoln, Lewis, Marlborough
8 Marshall Court, Aladdin
812 Miner, Sears, Puritan
308 Pauline, Gordon-Van Tine
1601 Pontiac Trail, Ward, Devonshire
622 South Seventh, Sears, Rembrandt
1316 South Seventh, Sears, Dover
2988 Sharon Drive, Sears, Uriel
502 Soule, Sears, Westly
1472 South Boulevard, Sears, Somers
709 West Stadium Boulevard, Sears, Crescent
1113 South State, Lewis, Lancaster
814 Third, Sears, Hathaway
1601 Wells, Gordon-Van Tine
12345 Jackson Road, Chelsea
5091 Plymouth Road, Dixboro, Sears, Winthrop

QUILTS, JEWELRY, KIT HOMES ON TAP AT KEMPF

The UM Faculty Women's Club Quilting Section will show more than 30 quilts and quilted items at Kempf House, 312 South Division, Saturday and Sunday, March 16 & 17, 1-4 p.m. The house will also be open 1-4 p.m. March 23 & 24 for guided tours but closed Easter weekend.

The house will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesdays in March with brown bag luncheon programs at noon. Laurie Allen and Shannon Clark of Arcadian Antiques and Collectibles in Nickels Arcade will talk about collecting and caring for old jewelry March 13.

Grace Shackman will give an update on new finds of kit homes March 20. March 27, Tom Bantle of Osius-Bantle Glass Studio will show slides on selection and care of stained glass.

WHEN LAURA MARZ COOKED UP A STORM OR THE STORY OF A POT HOLDER FOR MUSEUM ON MAIN

Preparations for opening the Museum on Main Street include not only bricks and mortar and clean-up parties. A great deal of effort is going into learning the history of the house and people who lived there when it stood at 1015 Wall Street.

Susan Wineberg is researching the early history and Esther Warzynski is seeking out information about John and Laura Marz who lived there in recent years.

Esther received an interesting glimpse of Mrs. Marz in a letter from Sonia Duffy, UM School of Nursing professor.

"During the last few years Laura Marz was alive she was visited by student nurses from UM under my direction," Professor Duffy wrote. "On my last visit to her home with a student she cooked us a full-scale meal.

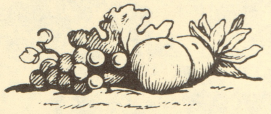
"When we walked in I thought the wall was on fire but Laura had it under control--barely. Shortly after, meat loaf, scalloped potatoes and zucchini were served in the parlor. Next to us stood the piano that Laura and her husband had played for many years before.

"Despite Laura's objections, I did the dishes after dinner. For my efforts Laura gave me the enclosed pot holder that she made. I thought you may like it to put in the home.

"Laura often mentioned that she worried about what would happen to the home after she died. I know she would be pleased at the plans for her home now. Nice work!"

The pot holder is a neatly knitted square in variegated shades of orange, red-brown and white.

If readers have information about the house or its residents Esther or Susan would welcome a call--Esther at 662-6275, Susan at 668-7470.



CERTIFICATES OFFERED

Hand lettered certificates are offered free of charge, framed if desired, by WCHS to organizations for milestone anniversaries. Information: 663-8826.

THANKS MUSEUM BUILDING FUND DONORS TO DATE

The following persons and organizations have donated to the Museum on Main Street Building Fund through February 21.

Alter, Forrest
Ann Arbor Parks Department
Bach, Doris Anna
Benninghoff, Anne/William
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Quinn Evans, Architects
Rainville, Esther G.
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Wright, Phyllis B.
Wurster, Elizabeth C.
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In kind donations have also been received from the following:

Ann Arbor News, Ann Arbor
Atwell-Hicks, Inc., Ann Arbor
Barrett Paving Materials, Dexter
Clark Block & Supply, Inc., Canton
Columbia Cable, Ann Arbor
The France Stone Company, Sylvania, Ohio
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Investall Associates, Ann Arbor
Milt Kemnitz, Ann Arbor
Killins Gravel, Ann Arbor
LaFarge Corporation, Southfield

WCHS MUSEUM WISH LIST

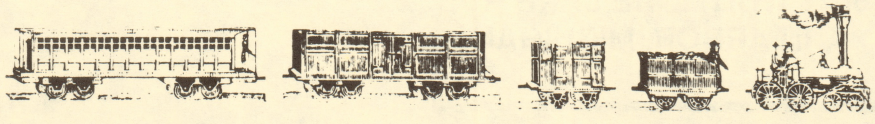
The Washtenaw County Historical Society Museum Planning Committee, chaired by Nancy T. McKinney, has started a wish list of things that will be needed to inventory the Society's collection and run a museum.

If readers have any of the items to donate please call Pam Tabbaa, 668-7871, or Elizabeth Dusseau, 662-5334, of the collections committee. Money donations are also welcome--please call Pauline Walters at WCHS office, 662-9092.

1. Custom built shelves for basement and a carpenter to build them.
2. Acid-free tissue paper, acid-free boxes, acid-free shelf paper.
3. Cotton sheeting
4. Portable large tables
5. Folding chairs
6. Old card tables. All above needed to inventory collection.
7. Display cases
8. Pin-up boards
9. Moveable chalk board
10. Easel
11. VCR and TV
12. Book shelves
13. Security system
14. Ironing board and iron
15. Microwave oven
16. File cabinets
17. Handicap bathroom accessories
18. Safe
19. Outside lighting
20. Fence
21. Display aids
22. Small vacuum cleaner, regular vacuum cleaner
23. Exhibit lighting
24. Insurance
25. Small table and chairs for children
26. Rocking chair
27. Braided rug
28. Picture books for children to sell in gift shop
29. Historical coloring books
30. Signs for site
31. Humidity control devices
32. New furnace
33. Coat rack, preferably portable
34. Book stand

Extra Special Needs

1. Light meter
2. Miscellaneous archival materials



HISTORIC HAPPENINGS INVOLVE: ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR, GREEK REVIVAL, DEPOT

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Depot, North Main at tracks.

Dexter Society: Annual pioneer arts and crafts fair, featuring several dozen artists and artisans, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Dexter High School gymnasium, 2615 Baker Road.

Museum closed until May except by appointment--call 426-2519 or 426-3352.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 755 County Street.

Northfield Township Society: Mary Culver of Ann Arbor, a specialist in Greek Revival farm houses in Washtenaw County, will present a slide show of them at the Wesley United Methodist Church at Whitmore Lake in late March on a date to be announced.

Call Co-president Rusty Towers, 665-8077, for date.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday at Pittsfield Township Hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

Salem Society: Mary Culver who is cataloging Greek Revival Farm Houses in Washtenaw County as a student in the Eastern Michigan University historic preservation program, will present a slide show at the annual meeting Thursday, March 28.

It will begin with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. at the former Salem Congregational Church across from the town hall. Program about 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

Saline Society: Veretta Whitaker of the Chelsea Depot Association will outline what Chelsea has done in restoring their depot at the society meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at the Senior Center, 7605 North Maple.

The Saline Society is working to restore the Saline Depot and rebuild next to it a livery barn, once owned by Saline founder Orange Risdon, as an historical center. A Dexter representative will talk about the restoration of the Dexter Depot at the April 17 meeting.

Webster Society: 7:45 p.m. second Monday at member homes.

Ypsilanti Society: Museum, 220 North Huron Street, open 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Archives open 9 a.m.-noon weekdays.

ANTIQUARIAN BOOK SHOW

The 13th Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, April 7, at Lansing Civic Center, 505 West Allegan Street. It claims to be Michigan's largest with 95 U.S. and Canadian dealers. Admission $2.

CORRECTION

The amounts earned by the first, second and third place winners of Englander's Christmas tree contest were: Ann Arbor Ballet Theater, $5,653; Ann Arbor Symphony, $4,544; and Ann Arbor Women's City Club, $418 (donated to Safe House). WCHS received $213. Thanks to everyone who participated.

THANKS FOR HISTORY-MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS

- to Clark Block & Supply, Inc. and Don Raley, Canton
- to LaFarge Corporation, Southfield
- to The France Stone Company, Sylvania, Ohio
- to Barrett Paving Materials, Dexter.

All of the above made in-kind donations not previously acknowledged in this column.

- to Yi-Hung Lin for helping Pauline Walters with mailing by stuffing envelopes.

STATE ARCHIVIST WILL SPEAK TO GENEALOGISTS

David J. Johnson, state archivist, Michigan Bureau of History, will talk about the Michigan State Library and Historical Center at Lansing at the 2 p.m. Sunday, March 24 meeting of the Genealogy Society of Wastenaw County at Washtenaw Community College.

Meeting in Lecture Hall II, Liberal Arts and Science Building. Class on "Primary and Secondary Sources for Proof of Ancestry" by Carolyn Griffin following. Business meeting 1:30 p.m.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2:00 P.M. SUNDAY MARCH 17, 1991

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